

**Leave No One Behind**

**2022 GLAA Questionnaire**

*Please give more than a simple "yes" or "no" response to our questions — though you should begin with a "yes" or "no." The depth and completeness of your answers play a major role in determining your final rating.*

*Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of LGBTQ people. Feel free to link relevant documents such as letters to the editor, legislative testimony, campaign literature, etc.*

**Housing**

* Do you support providing sufficient affordable housing units for all households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), such as, allocating vacant apartments to very low-income households, ensuring sufficient funds for the Housing Production Trust Fund are dedicated to these renters, and strengthening inclusionary zoning laws?

Yes. I strongly support providing sufficient affordable housing units for all households earning less than 30% Area Median Income, including through allocating vacant apartments to very low-income households, [ensuring the Housing Production Trust Fund adheres to the legal requirement](https://twitter.com/erinfordc/status/1516558654492786690?s=20&t=1GgUqMe3CesPimOY4JSRxw) that 50 percent of its resources be used to serve families with the lowest incomes, and [strengthening inclusionary zoning](https://twitter.com/dc4d/status/1468740634056007686?s=20&t=1GgUqMe3CesPimOY4JSRxw) (see also [Resolution 4B-20-0104](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=ElM7SSG1uWDvHdMz6MvSjw==)).

I believe housing is a human right. My beliefs are rooted in my personal experiences: my biological father died on the street while homeless. It’s a constant reminder that there is no reason, no excuse, and no justification for not taking every step we can to provide safe, stable, and secure housing for everyone. This value guides my policy positions and dedication to ending homelessness and providing deeply affordable housing.

As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I formed the [first-ever Housing Justice Committee](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=yN25GigcNTp/LrkMj/yPmA==) for an Advisory Neighborhood Commission. The Committee is focused on (1) considering proposed developments within the Commission’s boundaries for purposes of determining how best to maximize affordable housing, including deeply affordable housing; (2) analyzing and providing feedback on proposed legislation and policy affecting affordable housing and homelessness with a goal of increasing and expanding deeply affordable housing; and (3) hosting and supporting educational events on topics related to affordable housing and homelessness.

As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I have advocated repeatedly for efforts to end chronic homelessness, including through permanent supportive housing, via Resolutions you can read [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=HigN1c5N+v/IaxnaKeJabQ==) and [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=QpZS9MvOWRi68nbY0MuzMQ==); to fully fund repairs to public housing and maintain our public housing stock, via Resolutions you can read [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=OH+ARyXdo0cTkgzMTpJHQw==), [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=hmh25piG8OhcT36zlaXJYw==), and [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=2lKc2GzFtSL1WfYuafqNTw==); and to make sure DC is expanding affordable housing, via Resolutions you can read [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=dgJLSXBHmfq/tkZP5XbUhw==) and [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=m7M4++5LdNVhcuErcP1GWQ==), and considering bold affordable housing ideas like social housing and community land trusts, via a Resolution you can read [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=ElM7SSG1uWDvHdMz6MvSjw==).

As a candidate for DC Council Chairwoman, I am dedicated to ending chronic homelessness and providing deeply affordable housing. That is reflected on [my website](https://erinfordc.com/housing-as-a-right/) and in the substantive policy positions I have taken in my [Safe Housing Action Plan](https://erinfordc.medium.com/safe-housing-action-plan-352c5e3b76a2) and with regard to the [DC Housing Authority](https://erinfordc.medium.com/letting-our-housing-crumble-dc-housing-authority-falling-into-disrepair-2d4502601e17) and [ending encampment evictions](https://twitter.com/erinfordc/status/1467866090785198081?s=20&t=1GgUqMe3CesPimOY4JSRxw). My emphasis on government accountability and oversight – as detailed in my [DC Council Accountability Plan](https://erinfordc.medium.com/dc-council-accountability-plan-bda504ae31f1) – would go a long way toward assuring the Housing Production Trust Fund delivers on its affordability mandate.

You can watch my statement regarding the Washington Interfaith Network’s affordable housing priorities [here](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPAZiEt8wwS6hp5wOIb3CiL67t3A76cyzk3Z2-vgJq1PYqbJRW1v_61qa3i2or26ldiZHb9q40eXYNWxE25BMIehnha6KKJhZi5EoK0v9kCCKlZSKFV1144cnrCotzREjdtfrtQMFLe31eaIrYkENBLvvcxqjK-TQO5Wu3fkqA_Uox-hIbnTgfIPVGNAlsKkZnRPqTLXhQEsW42BoFxwCSVYxof46NoemGYelwcAlwNZuWCpAuxFtX5xf6DjCWuu6cL7l7w3cAdXrbnsleOv6islDVeeGh2QsJFUD77sX-n1Z4rx2Mkg6-qI_a8dnSNNNO55MV2R_Z3xJLk7MX-8mooXAh0XcixAqUek5jAlDLo3Hl2ubcGpyWzl8t71xcwmSw/3kn/gmvRkgR8Twa8hhHm5lxA_w/h15/EEvhyBOKHD7gbGth-jB5w6C68oKeUAI4DUO-xRraJgg) at 1:58:38.

* Do you support improving access to housing voucher programs by increasing the number available, as advocated for by The Way Home Campaign and LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition, and reforming program eligibility rules?

Yes. I strongly support improving access to housing voucher programs by increasing the number of vouchers available and reforming program eligibility rules.

As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I have repeatedly advocated for additional housing vouchers via Resolutions you can read [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=dgJLSXBHmfq/tkZP5XbUhw==) and [here](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=m7M4++5LdNVhcuErcP1GWQ==). I’ve consistently shown up in support of ending chronic homelessness at homeless memorial vigils, including spending the night. You can also read my views on expanding vouchers and holding the [DC Housing Authority](https://erinfordc.medium.com/letting-our-housing-crumble-dc-housing-authority-falling-into-disrepair-2d4502601e17) accountable to provide safe, stable, and secure housing.

I continue to be deeply disappointed that our housing voucher programs continue to languish. [39,000 DC residents are waiting](https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/553561/anita-bonds-says-shes-never-heard-of-d-c-s-massive-housing-voucher-waitlist/) for vouchers on a list that has been closed for a decade. We have to do more to fund local vouchers to provide DC residents with the dignity of a home. The DC Council’s Housing Committee must be empowered and supported to provide dedicated oversight. Instead, that committee has been the subject of [political horse-trading](https://dcist.com/story/20/12/23/progressive-lawmakers-lose-spots-on-d-c-councils-housing-committee/) by the current Council Chair. My [DC Council Accountability Plan](https://erinfordc.medium.com/dc-council-accountability-plan-bda504ae31f1) would provide a neutral committee assignment process and professional staff to ensure that the Housing Committee can do its important work well and fairly.

**Workers’ Rights**

* Do you support enacting legislation decriminalizing sex work for adults, including the selling and purchasing of sex and third party involvement not involving fraud, violence or coercion?

Yes. I support enacting legislation decriminalizing the selling and buying of sex work for adults.

I recently completed the DC National Organization for Women questionnaire, which asked candidates whether I support the “Equality Model” or “Nordic Model,” which would decriminalize selling of sex work but not buying of sex work. I responded as follows: I support decriminalizing selling and buying of sex in DC. The World Health Organization and Amnesty International have recommended that countries work toward decriminalization. In New Zealand, full decriminalization has resulted in sex workers feeling more comfortable reporting abuse and better able to refuse unwanted clients. Decriminalizing only the selling of sex keeps the sex trade underground and creates many of the same problems in terms of reporting abuse to police and coercion. Many sex workers have spoken to full decriminalization as the safest model for them.

* Do you support repealing the subminimum wage for tipped workers?

Yes. I support eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers.

[Unlike the current Council Chair](https://dcist.com/story/19/11/05/at-large-councilmember-david-grosso-isnt-running-for-reelection/), I have consistently and publicly supported ending subminimum wages in the District of Columbia. While my opponent was the architect behind Initiative 77’s repeal, I was proud of my support for Initiative 77, despite the harassment I experienced from industry ownership.

My belief in the One Fair Wage movement is rooted in my professional experience as an ethics and accountability lawyer for the federal Judiciary. I worked heavily on institutional reforms to make sure federal judges are accountable for misconduct (such as sexual assault and harassment of their employees) by levelling power disparities that created greater risk that misconduct would occur. I strongly believe eliminating the subminimum wage levels a deep power disparity and reduces the risks of sexual harassment and other workplace misconduct by bosses and customers against tipped-wage employees.

You can read more about why I supported Initiative 77 and support Initiative 82 to end the subminimum wage for tipped workers [here](https://erinfordc.medium.com/why-i-support-initiative-82-82f1dd4448ea).

* Do you support funding the Office of Human Rights (OHR) at a level that ensures the agency ends its case backlog, completes discrimination cases in a timely manner, and effectively engages in community education and outreach?

Yes. I support fully funding the Office of Human Rights so it can address its case backlog, complete cases in a timely manner, and effectively engage in community education and outreach.

As someone who has both experienced sexual harassment in the workplace and who has worked professionally as an ethics and accountability for the federal Judiciary, I know the importance of accountability for workplace conduct issues like discrimination. My professional background gave me the knowledge, expertise, and grounding to put forward a comprehensive [DC Council Accountability Plan](https://erinfordc.medium.com/dc-council-accountability-plan-bda504ae31f1), which includes proposals that would equip the Council to conduct better oversight and hold the Office of Human Rights to the highest standards.

We also know the Office of Human Rights isn’t sufficiently funded to enforce language access in the District. Our non-English speaking neighbors must have equal access to DC government services, programs, and activities. This means not just translated documents, but also full-time, bilingual employees that can provide information, answer questions, and explain what is required. In addition to advocating for improvements in implementation and enforcement of our language access law, my [DC Council Accountability Plan](https://erinfordc.medium.com/dc-council-accountability-plan-bda504ae31f1) provides for better, more coordinated language access at the Council itself. You can read more about my views on language access [here](https://erinfordc.medium.com/dc-latino-caucus-questionnaire-english-2d5a78d04ab9).

**Health**

* Do you support establishing overdose prevention facilities in the District to reduce deaths from drug overdoses?

Yes. I strongly support establishing overdose prevention facilities in DC to reduce deaths from drug overdoses.

While running for DC Council Chairwoman, I have held “Erin On Your Block” neighborhood walks with Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and residents to see first-hand the issues they are confronting at a neighborhood level. I have expressed support for overdose prevention facilities at a number of these walks.

I believe we have to do more to prevent overdoses in our community. In addition to overdose prevention facilities, I am committed to vigorous oversight of our opioid harm reduction plans, which is why I was shocked and disappointed when it turned out that money intended to save lives was being [misused and wasted](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/local/dc-opioid-epidemic-response-african-americans/?utm_term=.0699c95dbfe7&itid=lk_inline_manual_10). We have to be dedicated to ensuring these programs work as well as possible, and overdose prevention facilities are a [research-based](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7242015/) smart use of funds to do just that.

* Do you support removing the criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services?

Yes. I support removing criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use and increasing investments in health services.

In addition, I’m opposed to [the current Council Chair’s repeated efforts](https://outlawreport.com/facing-public-backlash-mendelson-backtracks-on-gray-market-crackdown/) to de facto recriminalize recreational marijuana gifting and reinvigorate the street trade in DC. You can read more about why I believe enforcement without a route to a legal recreational market [is a bad idea here](https://twitter.com/erinfordc/status/1509870936027238404).

**Policing and incarceration**

* Do you support reducing D.C.’s total pre-COVID-19 incarcerated population by one-third to one-half by FY30?

Yes, I support reducing DC’s pre-Covid-19 incarcerated population by one-third to one-half by Fiscal Year 2030.

As the Covid-19 public health emergency unfolded, I advocated for the Metropolitan Police Department to [move to a process of citation and release](https://twitter.com/ErinPalmerDC/status/1239400549986045952?s=20&t=BAzOtD6Ma1icdhS7QXixmQ) for non-felony offenses and to release as many people as possible to [reduce the population in jails](https://twitter.com/Evan_Yeats/status/1247215910152220673?s=20&t=oQvMqak6EHGkZ5C4LQGS2w) and mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

More broadly, I believe in restorative justice and led my Advisory Neighborhood Commission in approving a [Resolution](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=F1CByWcLXVxsCrzScMO3zg==) in support of the Second Look Act to correct for a period of excessive mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines targeting people of color. That work was based, in part, on my professional background having supported a group of scientists in submitting briefs with the United States Supreme Court on the science regarding youth brain development to [end the use of life without parole sentences for youth offenders](https://twitter.com/erinfordc/status/1486704279570325505?s=20&t=iabI5Spntz2MP1nq-R_AEA).

* Do you support better oversight, transparency, and accountability in the process of investigating and improving D.C. jails, including establishing an independent oversight body, addressing issues impacting transgender individuals, repairing jails, and changing staff culture?

Yes, I support better oversight, transparency, and accountability in the process of investigating and improving DC jails, including establishing an independent oversight body, addressing issues impacting transgender individuals, repairing jails, and changing staff culture.

With regard to establishing an independent oversight body, I will note that independent entities have not always delivered better outcomes in DC. For example, after receivership, the DC Housing Authority was restructured as an independent agency. Structuring the Housing Authority as an independent agency was intended to depoliticize the agency and bring greater accountability. Unfortunately, we have seen the opposite, in part due to the Mayor’s control of the Board and the Council’s lack of oversight. (You can read more regarding my views and proposals regarding the DC Housing Authority [here](https://erinfordc.medium.com/letting-our-housing-crumble-dc-housing-authority-falling-into-disrepair-2d4502601e17).)

The proposals in my [DC Council Accountability Plan](https://erinfordc.medium.com/dc-council-accountability-plan-bda504ae31f1) would assist the Council in its oversight functions and ensure accountability in improving DC jails. Specifically, use of nonpartisan committee support staff and a comprehensive, nonpartisan, and objective research service would allow the Council to conduct research on best practices across jurisdictions, hold government agencies accountable, and legislate solutions.

* Do you support divesting from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to further invest in vital programs, including anti-poverty, violence prevention, crisis intervention, and reentry?

Yes, I support divesting from the Metropolitan Police Department and investing in programs and services to meet basic needs.

As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I led my Commission in approving a [Resolution](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/ViewResolution.aspx?Id=Rblui710/hwwNfY2zTDUjQ==) to divest from local police funding and invest in community supports and services. The Resolution called for enhancing violence interruption funding; investing in communities; addressing failures of accountability, including as to sexual misconduct by police officers; and removing police from schools (among other recommendations). Many of the proposals and principles in the Resolution were later supported by the [Police Reform Commission](https://dccouncil.us/police-reform-commission-full-report/). My work on this Resolution prompted [important discussions](http://dcnorthstar.com/advisory-neighborhood-commission-4b-june-2020-virtual-meeting-notes/) among my fellow Commissioners and with community members. I’m proud to have built consensus around the principle that stable and secure communities are safe communities.

I have continued this commitment to investing in basic needs as a candidate. Stopping violence and ensuring a safe future requires investing in communities and basic needs. Communities that face chronic disinvestment are often the same communities plagued by violence. These disparities are the result of historically segregated neighborhoods and decades of chronic disinvestment in Black Washingtonians. I will fight for proactive infrastructure with an equity lens – things like safe streets and safe passage, beautiful playgrounds, parks, and green space, reliable waste management, clean neighborhoods, and robust public transportation. With continued focus and oversight to ensure consistent, high-quality government services, these disparities can be corrected and will help make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. You can read more on my views on [my website](https://erinfordc.com/community-safety/).

*Please return your questionnaire responses in PDF format* ***by 11:59pm ET on Friday, April 22*** [*here*](https://forms.gle/BY2LdSwFxyURMwRN8)*. If you have trouble submitting your response through the form, you can email it to equal@glaa.org. GLAA will rate each response at our meeting on April 26 at 7pm ET.*